

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /080 W
----- 035784

P R 300610Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3155
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6585

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE
SUBJECT: GDR COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH HONECKER

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) AUGUST 28 GAVE PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR COOPER'S MEETING WITH GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER. AN ADN ITEM REPORTS THAT HONECKER RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR FOR A TALK IN WHICH QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED IN AN "OPEN" ATMOSPHERE.

2. ND PLACED THE REPORT IMMEDIATELY ABOVE OTHER PAGE ONE ARTICLES COVERING A SOVIET EMBASSY STATEMENT ON THE AUGUST 26 ALLIED DEMARCHE IN EAST BERLIN AND A REPORT THAT ONE FRG CITIZEN AND FIVE WEST BERLINERS WERE ARRESTED ON AUGUST 21 AND AUGUST 23 FOR MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: BY POSITIONING THEX SHORT, TWO-COLUMN REPORT OF AMBASSADOR COOPER'S MEETING WITH HONECKER JUST ABOVE THE LONGER TEXT OF THE SOVIET REJECTION OF THE ALLIED PROTEST ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES, ND
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CONVENIENTLY IMPLIES A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO

EVENTS WHEN THERE IS NONE. ND NEGELECTS TO MENTION THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS MAKING HIS FAREWELL CALL ON HONECKER, A FACT WHICH WOULD HAVE DISTRACTED FROM THE OBFUSCATION BEING PRACTICED ON THE ND'S READERSHIP. THE OTHER MAJOR EAST BERLIN NEWSPAPER, BERLINER ZEITUNG, EMPLOYED A SIMILAR BUT NOT SO BLATANT TACTIC.

4. TO DATE WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY TWO WESTERN PRESS QUERIES ON THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT AS ANNOUNCED IN ADN, THE AMBASSADOR PAID A FAREWELL CALL ON HONECKER, THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD CALLED ON HIM AFTER PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS IN DECEMBER, 1974, AND THAT HTE DISCUSSION WAS CORDIAL AND CONCERNED US-GDR RELATIONS. COOPER

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